

Farewell to the Cossack

THERE is nothing very literary about the average man's conception of the Cossack. This formidable individual is ordinarily looked upon as a member of an elite, redoubtable, savage cavalry, who are absolutely insensible to any such emotion as fear. And, to be sure, the present war has provided both ample opportunity for the testing of that fearlessness and proof of its steadfast refusal to be intimidated. The Cossacks have faced every murderous resource of the twentieth century science with the same courage that has distinguished them from their earliest days, writes Dr. I. Goldberg in the Boston Transcript.

Their fire, their spirit, their absolute recklessness through fire, water and steel are those of a military community which at one time bade fair to become a nation all its own, but the role of a modern, purely warrior state was left by history for the Prussia of Frederick the Second.

War, however, endangers literature; the warrior needs a Homer for his Iliad. And so, if the Cossacks have themselves been too busy fighting to have time for the production of anything but a rude literature, they have, on the other hand, inspired genuine works of art in England, France, Russia, Poland. The last-named country owes very much indeed to the inspiration of the wild men of the steppes.

The original meaning of the word "Cossack" is that of free marauder, brigand, nomad. "The Steppes," says Gabriel Sarrazin, in his work on the great romantic poets of Poland, "engenders Cossacks." Here, in the middle ages was the place of refuge for all manner of criminals, vagabonds, refugees and fugitives, who banded together into a confederation.

Cossack life and that of Poland have time and again interpenetrated, now in combat against each other, now

reaches the plain where the Cossack army is on the march. The wargod has claimed his own. Day by day Marienka watches for the return of her sweetheart, and at last the army comes back. But Ostap is no longer alive. Marienka takes one look at the corpse, brought back with full honors. She smiles sadly, sighs, falls and expires.

For to Cossacks the war passion is even stronger than that of love. Most of the regular Cossacks, Pascal tells us, form really a celibatory corporation. Not that this should betoken any continence on their part. It is the freedom from domestic ties rather than any absence of sensuality which is thus denoted. Cossacks on the war-path indulge in every caprice of lust. The Cossack trinity, in fact, would seem to be Whisky, Tobacco and Girls.

So strong is the appetite for drink that to gratify it a Cossack is often led to sell his horse. And their horses are really part of their very selves.

But mere plunder is not for the Cossack. For he has written somewhere: "He who desires nothing has nothing. Let the Tartar be content with simple pillage. As for the Cossack, he must astonish the world. If there were a ladder to heaven itself, or a staircase to hell, the Cossack would find his way thither and revel in his conquests!"

While the Cossacks were still on good terms with Poland they not only furnished useful contingents to the enemy in time of war, but they acted as the policemen of the steppes, against the ravages of the Tartars. Tartar incursions were frequent, and were ward off by bands of Cossacks numbering two or three hundred. All might long they would sweep the steppes and in the morning hide in the ravines to snatch a bit of sleep.



COSSACKS OF THE DON

Joined side by side in a fight against a common enemy. The attack of Bohdan Chmelnicki (1648-1657) is the subject of Sienkiewicz's widely-read novel, "By Fire and Sword." The Cossacks of the Don gave Russia no little trouble. Under the leadership of Stenka Razin, who promised freedom to all who would follow his standard, the Cossacks rallied faithfully to battle. As with all such figures, legends have grown up around Razin, one of which imputes to him a feat which rendered him invincible. He was finally captured in 1671, dying by torture without so much as a murmur.

For a long time the death of the famous leader was doubted, and legend has it that he made various appearances, now among Russian sailors, among Persian prisoners on the Caspian sea. He is here represented as a white-haired old man. One hundred years later it was believed that Pougatcheff, who then played a role similar to that of Razin, was really an incarnation of the adventurous bandit and good fellow.

Soldiers First of All.

Pelicien Pascal, writing in one of the leading European magazines of the Cossacks and their effects upon the literature of the surrounding nations, points out that in the novel of the Pole Michael Czajkowski, entitled, "The Zaporog's Sweetheart," the life of the Cossack and the ideals for which he lives finds one of its most effective and realistic settings.

First of all, as one by this time may easily guess, the Cossack is a soldier. For battle he is born, and in battle he finds his most glorious death. To labor is a calamity, and work is looked down upon. Every true Cossack must bristle with a fierce independence, must burn with a passion for war. And thus in the tale of the Cossack and his sweetheart, when we find Ostap ready to thrust aside the sword for the love of Marienka, we must see in his abandonment of the fight the greatest sacrifice possible to a Cossack. We come to the marriage of Ostap and Marienka. At this moment a troop of Cossacks is going by, within Ostap's hearing. The latter, despite all vows, seizes his white steed, jumps on his back and makes a mad dash down hedges, ditches and

A Cossack on horseback, says Pascal, is like a man on wings. There is a veritable speed-mania that is not at all dissimilar from the automobile and aeroplane counterparts which modern civilization has developed.

Sorcerers and Superstitions.

There was among the Cossacks no constitution or legislative body for the steppes. Custom was the only guide. A conference usually elected the chief. They are firm believers in magic and sorcery, and not even the introduction of Christianity has wholly succeeded in stamping out superstition. In Czajkowski's Cossack tales there is a characteristic scene where a witch is visited for information. We find her with her associates, Maruska the cat, and a rooster. Fire and wax complete the magic outfit. She lights a fire in the cave and calls the cat forward. Maruska makes a circle around the fire, all the time meowing softly. The witch then melts her yellow wax and places the questioner in the magic circle described by the cat. Strange letters are written down, followed by a good deal of hocus-pecus, and while the rooster crows and the cat slinks into a corner, the witch pronounces a terrible horoscope of love, blood and damnation.

The steppe is the symbol of silence, of dreams and melancholy. The Cossacks have their type of lyric effusion, which represents, as Chojewski has written, "bitter voluptuousness of suffering intoxicated with itself." But this is true, concludes Pascal, only of the more intimate songs. For their warrior ballads reveal the true Cossack, with their wild pulsation of the joy of combat, and their ardent passion for the life of strife.

This in a way is a farewell appreciation of the Cossack, for the present war has demonstrated the comparative uselessness of cavalry, and the Cossack soldier is above all things a cavalryman.

Useless.

Musical Comedy Star—I can't stand it one minute longer. I want a divorce.

Her Mother—My dear child, nothing but the war news ever has the least chance these days of getting on the front page.—London Opinion.

ATTENTION TO SOW BEFORE FARROWING



Healthy, Vigorous Sow and Litter.

(By H. M. COTTELL.)

While pregnant, the sow should be given muscle and bone-making feeds that will develop in the unborn pigs size and strong vital organs. When the sow has good alfalfa pasture, only a small quantity of grain is needed. The sow should be kept in good flesh, but not fat. A heavy condition of flesh is favorable if it is put on with muscle-making feeds and the sow has been given ample exercise. Underfeeding is extremely detrimental. The pigs from a half-starved sow are weak and undersized at birth, and are stunted while suckling from lack of sufficient milk.

Sows fed much corn while pregnant make poor mothers, do not give a full supply of milk, are likely to be clumsy and the pigs are often small and weak. Peas, shorts, tankage, skim milk, and alfalfa, clover, cow peas or peanut hay or pasture are the feeds to give the sow for developing strong pigs at birth.

Corn is deficient in the bone, muscle-making and blood-making materials necessary to develop the unborn pig. If the sow does not have these materials in abundance, the pigs are small and weak and the supply of milk is poor. A sow fed corn without enough bone and muscle-making feeds to supply the demands of her unborn is often so feverish and unsatisfied that she eats her pigs when they are born. All the alfalfa hay she can eat daily or a goodly supply of skim milk, are cheap feeds, and unequaled as a balance to corn.

Constipation in the sow while she is pregnant or suckling must be avoided. Pig-eating is often caused by constipation. Laxative and bulky feeds, such as pasture hay, will prevent this

trouble, and should form part of the daily ration. Exercise is necessary to keep the bowels in good condition. Small feeds of roots are good. Heavy feeding of roots is often the cause of weak or dead pigs at birth. Feeding frozen roots is likely to cause abortion. The pregnant sow should be fed, sheltered, exercised and handled in such a way as to keep her in good flesh and health. Everything that facilitates this condition tends to secure pigs with greater vigor and more profitable as feeders.

A blow or a strain of any kind to the belly of the pregnant sow is likely to result in pigs dead at birth, or pigs born the wrong way, or her death. Sows had to step over a six-inch board in passing through an opening between their yard and pasture. There were many dead pigs at farrowing, and some of the sows died from trouble while giving birth. The ground next to a hog pen was eight inches lower than the floor, and the brood sow had to climb over this step—dead pigs and dead sow at farrowing time were the consequence. Potatoes were dug with a plow and the land left in ridges. Pregnant sows had to travel over these to get to a field. At farrowing time there were many dead pigs, and two sows died. A boar allowed to run with sows that are bred will frequently knock them around and bring the same trouble. Horses or cattle running in a lot with brood sows will often injure the sows the same way. Not over five or ten brood sows should be allowed to sleep together, as crowding in cold weather many result in losses at farrowing time. Pregnant sows should not be allowed to run with fattening hogs.

VACCINATION CURE FOR CHICKEN POX

Interesting Report Made by Expert of California Agricultural College Station.

The report of the agricultural experiment station at Berkeley gives the particulars of a series of experiments of vaccination as a remedy for chicken pox made by J. R. Beach, assistant in veterinary science. It will be of interest to poultrymen to learn that he has made a successful application of the method of vaccination against chicken pox devised at the Wisconsin agricultural experiment station.

In one flock badly infected at the time of vaccination a total of 1,177 fowls were treated and only 9 per cent subsequently developed chicken pox lesions. In the same pens 121 fowls were left unvaccinated for controls, and 87 1/2 per cent of these subsequently developed chicken pox. The vaccination appears to have a curative as well as a preventive value.

Vaccine was given to 113 diseased fowls in addition to local treatment and 113 diseased fowls with lesions of the same degree of severity were given local treatment of the lesions only. The mortality percentage of the vaccinated lot was 25 per cent, of the unvaccinated lot 54 per cent. The average length of time required for recovery of the vaccinated lot was fourteen days.

The technique of this vaccination method is so simple that it is believed that poultry raisers will be able to prepare the vaccine and administer the treatment themselves.

ONLY KIND OF COW THAT PAYS FARMER

Animal Must Produce 200 Pounds of Butterfat or 5,600 Pounds of Milk Yearly.

(By FRANCIS W. PECK, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.)

From several years' records of milk production and cost of maintenance it has been found that a cow must produce at least 200 pounds of butterfat or about 5,600 pounds of milk annually if she is to pay her way. This means 19 pounds of milk daily for 300 days. The annual cost of maintaining a cow is close to \$65, if a man values his labor at 15 cents an hour.

If a man wants more than a market price for feed and this bare wage, he must put his time on cows giving more than 200 pounds of fat.

The larger the increase over this amount the larger his pay will be.

DISEASE OF STOCK INDUCED BY ERGOT

Farmer Should Avoid Grazing Animals on Infested Areas—No Effective Remedy.

(By W. W. ROEHS, Colorado Experiment Station.)

Ergot is a name applied to one stage of a fungus that works in the heads of a number of grasses. It causes one of the oldest known stock diseases, the so-called "ergotism."

Ergot forms purple-black, straight or hornlike, hard structures about one-fourth to one-half inch long. These structures occupy the position of the grain in the head of grass. This hard mass is not a degenerate kernel of grass, however. The black ergot masses vary in size and shape, depending upon the plant attacked. They are largest in rye. Ergot develops upon a number of grasses, chief of which are cultivated rye, wild rye, wheat-grass, meadow grass, timothy and redtop.

There is no effective remedy for ergotism. Hence, one should become familiar with the appearance of ergot, and always avoid grazing stock on badly infested areas and also avoid cutting infested areas of grasses for hay.

LAYING HENS NEED MORNING DUST BATH

By Its Use Fowls Are Enabled to Rid Themselves of Pestiferous Little Mites.

(By C. S. ANDERSON, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo.)

Laying hens must have their morning dust bath if they are to lay the maximum number of eggs through the winter. It is a necessary luxury for them. By its use they are enabled to rid themselves of mites and to remove all scales and dirt from the skin.

Lice and mites do their greatest injury to the fowls at night while on the roost. Instinctively they look for a place to dust in the morning. Do not force your hens to dust in the dropping or feed litter. During the summer they will usually find their own dusting place such as the road or in the shade of trees and shrubbery, but in the winter it must be provided for them. Nail an old grocery box in one corner of the house. Elevate it above the floor so that it will not get filled with straw or litter and put in six or eight inches of dusting material. During moderate weather their box may be placed out in the pen.

BEST SOIL FOR BARLEY

In Great Plains Territory Dir' 1 Corn Land Is Favored.

Factors Exerting Greatest Influence on Production Are Water Supply, Condition of Seedbed and Preceding Crop.

Three of the factors that exert the greatest influence on the production of barley in the Great Plains area are the water supply, the physical condition of the seedbed, and the recognized, if not understood, effect of the immediately preceding crop. Differences in climatic conditions of different seasons have caused much wider variation in yields of barley than have resulted from the different methods of cultivation, tried at 14 stations in this area, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 222, "Barley in the Great Plains Area, and the Relation of Cultural Methods to Production."

In some sections of the region barley has not been considered strictly as a market crop, but rather as a feed crop. The price is usually determined by the quality of the barley from a brewing standpoint, the demand being for a uniform product, well matured, and of a good color. Certain sections of the dry regions afford opportunity to grow barley of good quality, especially in those years when conditions are favorable for the production of a good, plump berry. Dry weather with the absence of dews affords good conditions under which to harvest the crop without injury to quality or color. In the main, however, barley in the Great Plains area has been grown as a feed rather than as a market crop.

Barley has the advantage of requiring on the average a shorter growing season than either oats or wheat, and is therefore exposed for a shorter length of time to the unfavorable climatic conditions likely to occur. When seeded at approximately the same time as oats, it will ripen with or before the earliest oats. Of course the variety of barley planted determines somewhat the length of the growing season, but the above applies to the average of barleys.

Earliness of maturing is considered important in enabling a crop to escape drought, and this is important in the Great Plains area which is classified as semiarid. The distribution of the rainfall, within certain limits, is more important than the total amount received during the year. A relatively low rainfall, when properly distributed, may produce a crop, where a much higher rainfall, unfavorably distributed, may result in a crop failure. A much smaller crop usually results from a soil that starts out in the spring with a small amount of stored moisture than from one that is well supplied with moisture. As was stated earlier, the difference in climatic conditions was found to cause a much wider variation in yields than resulted from the different methods of cultivation in practice. In fact, so great has been the factor of seasonable rainfall that at some stations, where precipitation was not sufficient, and where the same methods of cultivation were practiced as at other stations, where precipitation was not sufficient, and where the same methods of cultivation were practiced as at other stations, the crop resulted in a failure.

While some methods of cultivating barley at Bellefourche, S. D., Garden City, Kan., Dalhart and Amarillo, Tex., have increased the yields, they have not brought them up to a point that affords much encouragement for the growth of barley. The conclusion is that the combination of soil and climate is not favorable to this crop at these four stations, and that the conditions cannot be overcome by cultural practices.

The results obtained at each of the 14 different stations of the Great Plains area are published in this bulletin, which gives the local data for each station. This bulletin may be had by those in this region upon application to the editor and chief of the division of publication, as long as the department's supply for free distribution lasts.

DEEP PLOWING IS IN FAVOR

Excellent Means of Heading Off Injurious Hessian Fly—Humus on Top of Soil Is Lost.

One of the means of heading off the Hessian fly is deep plowing, but owing to the lack of horseflesh, but few farmers plow very deep. As a result, the land is simply skimmed over and it will not hold moisture. The humus is left practically on top of the ground and is lost. Deep plowing preserves all this and loosens up the ground.

Reports from the wheat belt indicate that farmers are going to combat the Hessian fly by deep plowing, using farm tractors as motor power. Tractors are cheaper than horses and much stronger. Whenever the field will permit, it is cheaper and better to use a tractor.

Soil for Walking Plow.

A properly adjusted walking plow will run best in ground clear of stones, stumps and roots when you grip the handles but lightly. Too firm a grip throws the plow out of balance.

Attention to the Garden.

Fall plow the garden if possible and spread fine manure over it during the winter to disk in early 'n the spring.

DISTINCTLY A "WAR BABY"

Kitten's String of Names Left No Doubt as to the Sympathies of Its Owner.

A certain little Philadelphia girl is distinguished chiefly by her fondness for cats and kittens, which she much prefers to dolls.

Several days ago she was sitting on the sunny steps of the front porch, tenderly nursing on her lap a coal-black kitten; very small as yet, but sturdy and full of promise.

"What a pretty kitten!" remarked a neighbor in passing. "What do you call him, my dear?"

"I call him Allie," was the reply. "Allie? I think you must mean Alice, do you not?" suggested the lady with a smile.

"Oh, no, not Alice! His name is Allie," corrected the child. "His right name," proudly, "is George Albert Nicholas Peter Victor Emmanuel Joffe; but father says that is a heavy load for such a little fellow to carry, so I call him Allie for short!"

As the lady proceeded up the street, she heard a childish voice say tenderly: "Come, Allie, we must go in. It is time for you to have your rations."

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Bathe with Cuticura Soap, dry and apply the Ointment. They stop itching instantly, clear away pimples, blackheads, redness and roughness, remove dandruff and scalp irritation, heal red, rough and sore hands as well as most baby skin troubles.

Free sample each by mail with Book. Address postcard, Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Didn't Need the Ball.

Two neighboring football clubs had been drawn together. Local rivalry ran riot with the feelings of the players, and hard knocks were the order of the day. At the end of the first half each side had scored a goal, and several men had been wounded and wadded in the fray.

Neither side being able to add to the score, the game resolved itself into a free fight. At last the ball collapsed and someone volunteered to go for a new one.

"Oh, never mind a ball," shouted a player from behind a bundle of bandages; "let's go on with the game!"

IMITATION IS SINCEREST FLATTERY but like counterfeit money the imitation has not the worth of the original. Insist on "La Creole" Hair Dressing—it's the original. Darkens your hair in the natural way, but contains no dye. Price \$1.00.—Adv.

Must Have Proteid.

We can live indefinitely and do the hardest kind of work, provided we get enough proteid, but we cannot work satisfactorily on a diet which is rich only in calories. Indeed, a very large proportion of people would be infinitely better in health if they cut down their heat-producing food and rolled more on proteid. By diminishing the bulk of the food, we remove the pressure when an undue quantity of the resulting waste exerts on the blood vessels of certain parts of the intestines and this pressure is the cause of certain diseases like hemorrhoids.

To Fortify the System

Against Winter Cold

Many users of GROVE'S TARTLESS chili TONIC make it a practice to take a number of bottles in the fall to strengthen and fortify the system against the cold weather during the winter. Everyone knows the tonic effect of Quinine and Iron which this preparation contains in a tasteful and acceptable form. It purifies and enriches the blood and builds up the whole system. 50c.

60-Year-Old Telescope.

A telescope sixty years old does duty in the customs boarding office at Long wharf. This instrument has picked up thousands of foreign arrivals in its time, having been used all those years either in the custom house block or in the present office. When new, the powerful lens brought shipping in President's Roads almost within hand's reach, but it is getting shaky now through infirmities incident to age.

Not Gray Hairs but Tired Eyes make us look older than we are. Keep your eyes young and you will look young. After the Movies Murine Your Eyes. Don't tell your age. Murine Eye Remedy Co., Chicago. Send Eye Book on request.

Her Mental Status.

"That surely was a paradox you brought into the family, my dear." "What do you mean?" "The cook you said you got out of an intelligence office."

Diplomacy After Midnight.

Officer—Go home. Outlate—Gimme shafe conduct.—New York Sun.

THIS IS THE AGE OF YOUTH. You will look ten years younger if you darken your ugly, grizzly, gray hairs by using "La Creole" Hair Dressing.—Adv.

Very Much So.

"What a fresh complexion Miss Gladys has!" "Yes; she's just put it on."

Marrying a man to reform him is like making a good omelet out of a like egg. Maybe it can be done.

For genuine comfort an, lasting pleasure use Red Cross Ball Blue on wash day. All good grocers. Adv.

Lies are popular because plenty of people would rather believe them than the truth.